United States Department of Agriculture | Forest Service | Northeastern Area State & Private Forestry | 180 Canfield Street Morgantown, WV 26505-3101

File Code: 3420 Detection (NA-03-13)
Date: May 22, 2003

Subject: 2003 Aerial Sketchmapping Survey

To: Kevin Elliott, Forest Supervisor
Allegheny National Forest

We are planning to conduct the annual aerial sketchmapping survey of the Allegheny National Forest. The purpose of this survey is to sketchmap the location, intensity, and area affected by forest pests, especially defoliating insects, diseases, and weather-related damage. Not only do we want to inform you of these plans, but we also want to give your staff an opportunity to participate in both the flying and ground truthing portions of the survey. We would also like to ask for your assistance in the execution of this survey.

As for requested assistance, we would like to borrow a programmed portable Forest Service radio to be used on the aircraft. We will use this radio to notify a forest dispatcher of our approximate position and heading at 15-minute intervals. The aircraft is already equipped with an FAA-approved external antenna that should allow us to maintain radio contact while flying over the Forest.

We will be flying the Forest during the second or third week of July. The actual dates will depend upon weather conditions and aircraft availability. We anticipate that the aerial survey and ground truthing will last 2 to 3 days.

Rick Turcotte will be coordinating the survey. He will be using a Forest Service-approved Cessna 210 (N30266) owned by Sterling Airways, Danville, New York, and flown by Pat Jessup, under contract with us.

We have enclosed a copy of the project aviation plan, which outlines pertinent information regarding the flight. We have also enclosed a job hazard analysis to be read and signed by anyone interested in participating in the flight.

If you or any of your staff have any questions or comments about our plans, please do not hesitate to call Rick Turcotte at (304) 285-1544.

Sincerely,

JOHN W. HAZEL
Field Representative
Forest Health Protection

Enclosures

Cc: District Ranger, Bradford RD
District Ranger, Marienville RD

RMT